



Biblical Lesson Outline: The Prodigal Son for Teens

Theme: God's Unconditional Love and Forgiveness

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Objectives:

- Teens will be able to summarize the parable of the Prodigal Son.
- Teens will reflect on their own experiences with forgiveness and acceptance.
- Teens will understand the message of God's unconditional love and grace.

Materials:

- Bible
- Whiteboard or flipchart
- Markers
- Optional: Play-Doh, construction paper, other creative materials

Lesson:

Introduction (2-3 minutes):

- Start with an icebreaker activity related to themes of leaving home, making mistakes, or forgiveness.
- Briefly introduce the parable of the Prodigal Son and its context in the Gospel of Luke.

Storytelling and Discussion (10 minutes):

- Option 1: Read the parable aloud from the Bible.
- Option 2: Divide the parable into sections and have different teens read each part.
- After each section, facilitate a discussion using questions like:
 - What motivates the younger son to leave? What are his expectations?
 - How does the son's life turn out after he leaves?
 - What is the turning point for the son?
 - How does the father react to the son's return?
 - What is the older son's reaction? How does it compare to the father's?

Personal Reflection (10 minutes):

- Divide teens into small groups or have them work individually.
- Ask them to reflect on the following questions:
 - Which son do you identify with more? Why?
 - Have you ever felt like you needed to "run away" from something? What was it?
 - Have you ever experienced forgiveness or offered forgiveness to someone else?
 - How does the story of the Prodigal Son make you feel about God's love and forgiveness?

Activity (5 minutes):

- Choose one of the following activities to help teens express their understanding and respond to the story:
 - Creative Response: Provide materials like Play-Doh, construction paper, etc., and have teens create something that represents their response to the story.
 - Journaling: Ask teens to write in their journals about their reflections on the parable.
 - Role-Playing: Have teens role-play different scenes from the story, focusing on emotions and motivations.

Conclusion (2-3 minutes):

- Briefly summarize the key points of the lesson.
- Encourage teens to consider how the message of the Prodigal Son applies to their own lives.
- Offer a closing prayer or reflection.

Extension Activities:

- Have teens research other parables of Jesus that focus on forgiveness and grace.
- Encourage teens to think about how they can show forgiveness and compassion to others.
- Watch a movie or read a book that explores themes of family, forgiveness, and second chances.

Note:

- This outline is a suggestion and can be adapted to fit the needs and interests of your specific group of teens.
- Be mindful of creating a safe and inclusive space for teens to share their thoughts and feelings.
- Encourage respectful dialogue and avoid judgmental language.

I hope this helps!